



The above two youngsters of Ona Ivaška in Boston, are probably the cutest "billy goats" one has ever seen. Here they are seen sparring stubbornly as they perform Oželis, a well liked Lithuanian dance for men. This excellent shot was taken by Will Rapport and it was a much displayed picture.

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The Polish Festival Dancers is one of Chicago's newer ethnic groups. Their dancing is light, active, and that little something that makes them a group very pleasant to watch. They are nearing their first anniversary and are under the direction of Miss Emily Mucha, a well known dancer and instructress in the folk dance circles. Altho now they are becoming much in demand for Festival programs—a bright future is ahead for them.

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#### INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL IN OSLO. NORWAY

The Third International Folk Dance and Song Festival will be held this year in Oslo, Norway, at the invitation of Norges Undomslag and Norsk Folkemusikklag. Countries from all parts of the world are being invited to send representative groups of dancers and singers. Only authentic folk music will be performed and executed by traditional dancers and singers. The dates of the festival are June 29th to July 5th, 1955. For further information write to Hon. Secretary: Miss Maude Karpeles, 12 Clorane Gardens, London, N.W. 3., England.

#### TWO BEAUTIFUL LITHUANIAN DANCE POSES

by Robert Treonis

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#### MATT MATTOX AND RUTA KILMONIS

FAST-STEPPING . . . dancing . . . and romancing! . . . are brilliantly contributed to the new musical by Matt Mattox and Ruta Kilmonis. Mattox is the "show-stopping" dancer of Broadway's "Carnival in Flanders", with Miss Kilmonis, a product of Eastern shows and TV, making her major movie debut. Based on Stephen Vincent Benet's short story "Sobbin Women", M-G-M's rollicking new musical "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" is the sing-inest - dancingest film of the year, with an outstanding cast headed by Jane Powell and Howard Keel.

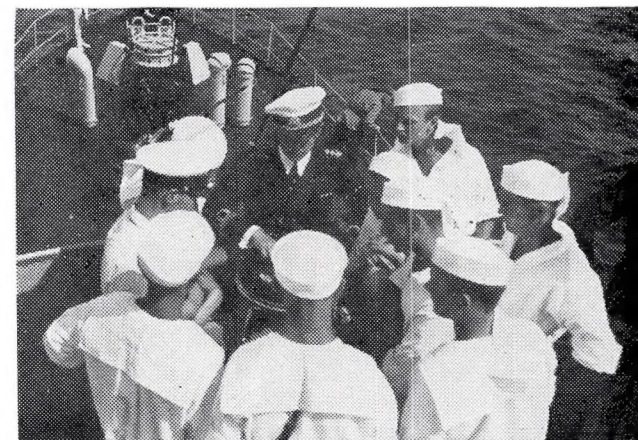
Ruta Kilmonis was a member for many years of the Lithuanian folk dance group of Los Angeles which is under the direction of Lucille Zaikis. Two years ago Ruta was selected as Miss Baltic, as the most beautiful girl representing the Baltic States, and rode upon an elaborate float dressed in her beautiful Lithuanian costume. According all reports Ruta did a beautiful job in the movie.

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#### SUGGESTIONS FOR THE STATE-WIDE

Let the committee carefully select the program so that there will not be 20 Ukrainian and other related Kazatski dances and only 5 other types. Variety is the spice of life and makes a program more interesting.

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Captain Paul Labanauskas, VILTITE reader, shown briefing his sailors in the Baltic, during Lithuanian happier days of Independence. Paul now lives in New York.

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## LINCOLN AND THE JEWS

ALBERT S. PILL

Prior to 1854, the Jews active in a political party, and their numbers were not large, had been allied either to the Democratic or Whig Parties. There were several Jews prominent in the ranks of the Democratic Party throughout the country. The afore-mentioned David Levy Yulee held his Senate seat as a Florida Democrat from 1845 to 1861. In California, Solomon Heydenfeldt was chosen as a Judge of the State Supreme Court in 1851.

There were two Jewish congressmen, Democrats, from Pennsylvania; Henry M. Phillips, who was elected in 1856 and served for one term, and Meyer Strouse, who came to the House of Representatives in 1862. In Chicago, the young banker Henry Greenebaum became a Democrat Alderman in the 6th Ward and in 1860 was a presidential elector on the ticket of the Douglas Democrats.

It was in New York, however, that the Jews were most closely allied with the Democratic machine, especially with Tammany Hall. Until his death in 1851, Mordecai M. Noah had for decades been an important figure in Tammany. During the forties, a broker's son, Emanuel Hart also became prominent in Tammany, as an alderman in 1845-46, and as a one term representative in Congress from 1852-1854.

Banker August Belmont, though not a politician, became increasingly important in the Democratic Party in the fifties. He was one of the engineers of the nomination of Buchanan. Belmont was elected Chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 1860.

Throughout the forties and fifties there were also Jews active in the ranks of the Whig Party. First in Kentucky, and then in Illinois, Abraham Jonas was a member of the state legislature. He met Abraham Lincoln, also a Whig, and the two became lifelong friends. A resident of Philadelphia, Moses A. Dropsie ran on the Whig ticket in 1852; and in New York, Jonathan Nathan, a Whig since 1834, was an intimate friend and adviser of Hamilton Fish.

However, with the passage of the Kansas Nebraska Act, and the splits in both the Democratic and Whig Parties, the stage was set for the ascendancy of the Republican Party, and Jews participated in its formation. Three Jews were amongst the signers of a call to one of the earliest Republican State Conventions held in Jackson, Michigan, July 6, 1854.

The new party grew by leaps and bounds, especially among the German immigrants in the midwest. The first official call for a German mass meeting in Chicago to join the Republican Party was signed by five people, three being Jews; and in 1854, a Silesian Jew, Charles Kozminski, became the first president of Chicago's Washington Club, a German Republican organization.

In downstate Illinois, Lincoln's friend, Abraham Jonas joined with the former in breaking with the Whig Party, and both were chosen by the Illinois Republican State Convention as presidential electors on the Fremont ticket. By 1860, Lincoln was on his way to the White House, and Jonas was the chairman of the Republican County Committee at Quincy.

Abram Dittenhoefer of New York, son of a wealthy merchant, was going to vote for the Democratic Party. But one day he read in a newspaper about Judah P. Benjamin's "Property Doctrine" address and Senator Wade's comments calling Benjamin "an Israelite with Egyptian principles." Dittenhoefer's convictions were altered. He concluded that the Jew, Benjamin, whose ancestors had been slaves in Egypt, ought not to uphold slavery in a

free America without bringing disgrace to himself. Hence, he joined the Republican Party and campaigned for Lincoln amongst the Germans in New York in 1860. Dittenhoefer served as a presidential elector for Lincoln in 1864.

One of the staunchest Republicans and Abolitionists among the rabbis was Rev. David Einhorn, who had been driven out of Austria, and his synagogue closed because of "radical doctrines." Rabbi Einhorn came to pro-slavery Baltimore in 1855, launched the German monthly, *Sinai*, and became Rabbi of the Har Sinai Congregation.

Similarly, in Chicago Rabbi Bernard Felsenthal wrote earnestly against slavery in his *Illinois Staats-Zeitung*, and spoke in the same manner from the pulpit and before the German Republican clubs. In an article entitled, "Die Juden und die Sklaverei" (The Jews and The Slavery Question), he pointed to the experiences of the Jews on the European continent and stated that, ". . . it should be the Jew above all who ought to cultivate the most glowing and most irreconcilable hatred towards (the peculiar institution of the South)"—to slavery.

Likewise, in Philadelphia Rabbi Sabato Morais uttered burning words of protest from his pulpit against slavery, in spite of pro-slavery members of his congregation who prevented him from speaking for a time. Later he was elected together with David Einhorn as honorary member of the Philadelphia Union League Club.

Unlike Einhorn, Felsenthal, and Morais, was the forceful leader of Reform Judaism, Cincinnati Rabbi, and editor of the *Israelite*, Isaac M. Wise. As a peace Democrat Dr. Wise supported Douglas in 1860, and so ardently attacked the Abolitionists and Republicans that he was offered the nomination as State Senator by the Democratic Party in 1863, but declined the offer.

On December 17, 1862, General Grant issued his General Orders No. 11, a harsh order to expel all Jewish merchants from around his post of operation.

Cincinnati and Paducah immediately became storm centers of Jewish protest being close to Grant's field of operations. A wave of objection arose over such an inhumane and unconstitutional treatment of a whole community of people. The Jewish citizens of Paducah decided to send a representative to speak to President Lincoln in person, and Cesar Kaskel, a Vice President of the Paducah Union League Club embarked for Washington and arrived on January 3, 1863. Accompanied by Rep. Gurley of Ohio, Kaskel saw President Lincoln. On learning of the object of their visit Lincoln remarked: "And so the Children of Israel were driven from the happy land of Canaan?" "Yes", replied Kaskel, "and that is why we have come unto Father Abraham's bosom, asking protection." "And this protection they shall have at once," said Lincoln, who thereupon wrote a directive to General Halleck instructing that General Grant's order be immediately revoked. Rep. Pendleton of Ohio and Senator Powell of Kentucky both introduced resolutions in their respective chambers which censured Grant for the issuance of this "illegal, tyrannical, and unjust order."

Before the result of Kaskel's mission became known, Rabbi Isaac M. Wise and other citizens of Cincinnati were en route to Washington. On the way they learned of the revocation of Order No. 11, but nevertheless, they decided to go to Lincoln and thank him. Wise met the real Lincoln and was enamored with his good humor, democratic manner and disarming frankness, a Lincoln who had intervened many times on behalf of the constitutional rights of Jewish citizens. Wise's account of his meeting with Lincoln gives us a clear insight into the nature of the war time president:

"We went to the White House in our traveling habiliments and spoke about half an hour to the President